

reproducing a morphology of a subject, wherein said perform has walls and has a shape

as close as possible to a predetermined final form following deformation of the preform.

*Each casting subject*  
27. A method of manufacturing a personalized orthodontic or dento-facial orthopedic apparatus, comprising:

- a) providing a female mold based at least in part on study models created by a practitioner from a casting or castings made from a subject,
- b) positioning a preform in the female mold,
- c) expanding the preform with an expansion mechanism so as to obtain an apparatus having a desired shape by displacement of mechanical pieces on the expansion mechanism, and
- d) removing the apparatus from the mold and finishing the apparatus,

wherein the perform comprises a three-dimensional hollow body with a form allowing expansion of the preform inside a mold reproducing a morphology of a subject.

*Subject 1*  
28. An orthodontic or dento-facial orthopedic apparatus manufactured according to a process comprising :

- a) providing a female mold based at least in part on study models created by a practitioner from a casting or casting made from a subject,
- b) positioning a preform comprising a thermoplastic material in the female mold,
- c) expanding the preform so as to obtain an apparatus having a bent-back segment for inserting the fastening hook, and
- d) removing the apparatus from the mold and finishing the apparatus and comprising one or more fastening hook, wherein a fastening hook is inserted into the bent-back segment of the apparatus.

*Sub C1*  
88. The process according to claim 37 wherein the electrical energy is supplied by a hand-held, portable current generator.

*J*  
*R*  
39. The process according to claim 37 wherein the stable mechanical positioning is performed with the distal ends of electrical conductors having a clamp shape, and the distal ends are adapted to the diameter of a wire or to a shape of the hook to be inserted.

40. The process according to claim 37 wherein the electrical energy is supplied by a gun that mechanically holds a pair of rigid electrical conductors connected by flexible conductors to a fixed generator.

*E Sub C1*  
Please add new Claim 41:

--41. (New) The preform of claim 1, wherein the width of the walls of the preform is variable...

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-28 and 32-35 and 37-40 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Claims 1, 27-28, and 38-40 have been amended without prejudice. New Claim 41 has been added. No new matter has been added.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting the typographical error in the previous Response in which it was indicated that Claims 39-31 and 36 should be cancelled. It should have read that Claims 29-31 and 36 were to be cancelled. Applicant apologizes for the confusion.

In response to the traversal of the Restriction Requirement, Claims 25-27 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as non-elected subject matter. However, because the Examiner did not make the Restriction Requirement Final in the